

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently Amended)

A method of inflating and launching a balloon, comprising the steps of:

~~deploying a opening a cover on a case and extending at least one panel from the case to provide a launch platform to create a surface~~ on which an uninflated balloon can be placed;

securing a launch bag to said launch platform;

inserting an uninflated balloon in said launch bag to secure said uninflated balloon to said launch platform; and

controllably releasing said balloon from said launch bag.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended)

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9 wherein the said launch platform comprises a case provides for providing an enclosed space for the storage and transport of said uninflated balloon, ~~said step of deploying comprises:~~
~~extending a plurality of legs, having a first end and a second end with said first end being secured to said case, for supporting said case at a predetermined height;~~
and

~~deploying at least one folding shelf that is attached to an interior surface of said case to create a surface on which said uninflated balloon can be placed.~~

Claim 11 (Currently Amended)

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9 ~~10~~ further comprising the step of supporting the case by extending a plurality of legs from the case, wherein said legs may be extended from the case prior to opening the cover, wherein said step of deploying further comprises:

~~attaching said launch bag to said launch platform at a plurality of points.~~

Claim 12 (Currently Amended)

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9 ~~11~~ wherein said launch bag includes an elastic material, ~~comprises a substantially cylindrical enclosure formed of an expandable material to accommodate said uninflated balloon and securely hold said uninflated balloon through all stages of inflation to full inflation and said substantially cylindrical enclosure includes a zipper formed along a side of said substantially cylindrical enclosure, said step of controllably releasing said balloon comprises:~~

~~—————operating said zipper to open said substantially cylindrical enclosure to release said inflated balloon from said launch bag.~~

Claim 13 (Previously Presented):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein said launch bag is releasably secured to said launch platform.

Claim 14-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, further comprising the step of supporting the case by extending a plurality of legs from the case, wherein said legs fold out from the back of the case and the back of the case is located on a side of the case that is opposite the cover.

Claim 22 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein the case includes at least one wheel that permits transportation of the case.

Claim 23 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein the case includes a handle and at least one fitting that enables the case to be secured to a solid structure.

Claim 24 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, wherein the case includes a handle and at least one fitting that enables the case to be lifted.

Claim 25 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 9, further comprising the step of extending another panel from the case to provide the launch platform on which the uninflated balloon can be placed.

Claim 26 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 25, wherein at least one of the panels extends beyond the end of the balloon.

Claim 27 (New):

A method of inflating and launching a balloon, comprising the steps of:

- securing a launch bag that includes an elastic material to a launch site;
- inserting an uninflated balloon in said launch bag to secure said uninflated balloon to said launch site; and
- controllably releasing said balloon from said launch bag.

Claim 28 (New)

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27 wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that provides an enclosed space for the storage and transport of said uninflated balloon.

Claim 29 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27 wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that is supported by extending a plurality of legs from the case, wherein said legs may be extended from the case prior to opening a cover of the case.

Claim 30 (New)

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein said launch bag is releasably secured to said launch site.

Claim 31 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that is supported by extending a plurality of legs from the case, wherein said legs fold out from the back of the case and the back of the case is located on a side of the case that is opposite the cover.

Claim 32 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that includes at least one wheel that permits transportation of the case.

Claim 33 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that includes a handle and at least one fitting that enables the case to be secured to a solid structure.

Claim 34 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by opening a case that includes a handle and at least one fitting that enables the case to be lifted.

Claim 35 (New):

The method of inflating and launching a balloon of claim 27, wherein the launch site includes a launch platform that is provided, at least in part, by extending a first and a second panel from an open case.